

Message Text

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P 131930Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EFIS JA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN US-JAPAN BILATERAL
FISHERY TALKS

1. INTERNATIONAL NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION, AT
ANNUAL MEETING WHICH CONCLUDED NOV 8, FAILED TO ARRIVE AT
SOLUTION OF PROBLEM RELATING TO INCIDENTAL HALIBUT CATCH
BY JAPANESE TRAWL FLEET OPERATING IN EASTERN BERING SEA.
CANADA AND US STRONGLY SUPPORTED CONSERVATION RECOMMENDA-
TION OF INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION (IPHC) TO
EXPAND IN TIME AND SPACE EXISTING AREAS CLOSED TO JAPANESE
TRAWLING. IPHC PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED
INCIDENTAL HALIBUT CAPTURE BUT JAPAN FIRMLY OPPOSED PROPOSAL
DUE TO IMPACT ON THEIR TRAWL FISHERY FOR POLLOCK.

2. WE PLAN TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS ON HALIBUT ISSUE AT
UPCOMING BILATERAL TALKS. THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA HAS
INDICATED THAT IT WISHES TO SEND AN OBSERVER TO TOKYO TO
ATTEND TALKS AND WOULD CONTACT GOJ ON THIS MATTER.

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3. PLEASE INDICATE TO GOJ THAT USG HAS NO OBJECTION TO CANADIAN OBSERVER, IN FACT WELCOMES OBSERVER. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE GOJ WOULD OBJECT TO PRESENCE OF CANADIAN OBSERVER SINCE CANADA HAS AN EQUALLY LARGE STAKE IN HALIBUT FISHERY AS US. FURTHER, IPHC PROPOSAL SUBMITTED

AT INPFC HAD FULL, JOINT SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AND US AND, IN FACT, EASTERN BERING SEA HALIBUT DISCUSSION IN TOKYO COULD BE CONSIDERED IN CONTEXT OF GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT DISCUSSIONS INVOLVING THREE GOVERNMENTS.

4. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT GOC ALSO WANTS TO PARTICIPATE IN GULF OF ALASKA HALIBUT DISCUSSIONS. GOJ UNDERSTANDABLY MAY WISH TO CIRCUMSCRIBE CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN TOKYO TALKS SINCE, AS GOJ IS AWARE, US PROPOSALS ON HALIBUT IN GULF OF ALASKA IS CLOSELY TIED IN WITH PROPOSALS TO CONSERVE OTHER FINFISH STOCKS IN GULF. WE DO NOT OBJECT TO CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN DISCUSSIONS ON GULF OF ALASKA HALIBUT ISSUE BUT WISH TO CONSULT WITH GOJ ON THIS MATTER AT TOKYO.

5. FOR OTTAWA: DR. M. SHEPARD, FISHERIES AND MARINE SERVICE, DEPT OF ENVIRONMENT, PRESENTLY ATTENDING ICNAF MEETING AT MIAMI HAS BEEN INFORMED OF US APPROACH. WE SUGGEST THAT POST INFORM CONCERNED OFFICIALS IN DEPT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS REGARDING THIS MATTER. KISSINGER

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